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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 192055Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9907
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4998

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG
SUBJECT: FRG-GOB NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 142762

1. LAST EVENING I WAS APPROACHED RATHER GLEEFULLY BY FRG EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR WOLF (CURRENTLY NUMBER TWO IN THE EMBASSY), WHO TOLD ME THAT THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN INFORMED FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE FRG-GOB AGREEMENT HAD NOT COME UP AT ALL IN THE TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS FORD AND SCHEEL AND THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER. WHEN I COMMENTED THAT I HAD SEEN THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE SECRETARY AND GENSCHER THAT CERTAINLY INDICATED THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE TWO MEN, WOLF STATED THAT IN FACT THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION BUT RATHER AN AGREEMENT AT THE VERY END OF THE SECRETARY-FOREIGN MINISTER MEETING THAT SOMETHING WOULD HAVE TO BE SAID ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTION "TO SATISFY THE PRESS AND CONGRESS" (WOLF'S WORDS). THE POSITION AGREED TO WAS THAT SET OUT IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. IN THE ENSUING CONVERSATION WOLF SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FROM HIS AMBASSADOR THAT I HAD HAD A CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA. I SAID THAT I HAD AND ASKED HIM HOW HIS AMBASSADOR HAD LEARNED ABOUT IT. WOLF REPLIED: "HE LEARNED ABOUT IT HERE, FROM YOU, I THOUGHT." I SAID THAT I HAD NOT
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BEEN THE SOURCE, WOLF WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE GATHERED THAT

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I HAD TOLD SILVEIRA THAT THE USG WISHED TO CONTINUE COOPERATING IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD, WHICH SUGGESTED THAT OUR COMPANIES WERE HOPING TO GET A "SHARE." HE WENT ON TO MAKE SOME RATHER FATUOUS REMARKS ABOUT THE NEED FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THE BRAZILIAN DESIRE FOR "INDEPENDENCE" AND "DIVERSIFICATION." I TOLD WOLF THAT I HAD INDEED TOLD SILVEIRA ABOUT OUR INTEREST IN CONTINUED COOPERATION BUT THAT THE IMPLICATION OF HIS OTHER REMARKS SHOWED A REGRETTABLE MISUNDERSTANDING ON HIS PART, ONE WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT FORTUNATELY SEEMED NOT TO SHARE, ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THE CONCERNS WE HAD EXPRESSED. WE THEN WENT OVER OLD GROUND: COMMERCIAL MOTIVATION VS. NON-PROLIFERATION PRINCIPLES; BRAZILIAN ASPIRATIONS; SAFEGUARDS, ETC. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION, WOLF CONFIRMED THAT THE GOB HAD GIVEN THE FRG EMBASSY A COPY OF MY APRIL 25 LETTER TO MINISTER UEKI.

3. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 1, WOLF, WHO IS CONSIDERED BY US IN THE EMBASSY TO BE HARDLY THE BRIGHTEST GERMAN OFFICIAL WE HAVE EVER KNOWN, MAY HAVE GIVEN ME A GARBLED ACCOUNT OF WHAT THE FRG EMBASSY HERE MAY HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE WASHINGTON EMBASSY. BE THAT AS IT MAY, I THINK, GIVEN THE ATTENTION PAID BY THE GOB TO THE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, AND THE OBVIOUS GERMAN INTEREST, THAT THERE IS A CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE THAT THE FRG EMBASSY HAS PASSED THIS KIND OF ACCOUNT TO THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. IN THE QUITE LIKELY EVENT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF REFER TO THE MATTER WITH US, I WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. RE PARA 3. ALTHOUGH IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT SILVEIRA TOLD THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR ABOUT OUR CONVERSATION--AND THAT, ALTHOUGH INSTRUCTIVE, WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE BAD--I ASSUME, DESPITE WOLF'S REFERENCE TO BRASILIA AS THE SITE OF THE SOURCE, THAT THE FRG EMBASSY WAS INFORMED OF THE CONVERSATION HERE BY ITS PRINCIPALS FOLLOWING THE TRANSMITTAL OF THE INFORMATION BY EMBASSY BONN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAST PARA OF STATE 139843. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF EMBASSY BONN WOULD INFORM ME WHEN NOTIFICATION WAS GIVEN TO THE FRG.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRASIL04998
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750214-0651
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750632/aaaabcry.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 142762
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG-GOB NUCLEAR AGREEMENT
TAGS: ENRG, GE, BR, (WOLF)
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006